

"Resolved, That this Assembly declare in conformity with the unanimous decision of our presbyteries, that the Confession of Faith; the Larger and Shorter Catechism; the Form of Government; the Book of Discipline, and the Directory of Worship, which together make up the constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States are the constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States."

By this act the Southern Church was launched out into the world, and its growth during the past quarter of a century has been something wonderful. Instead of 10 Synods she has now 13, and these courts comprise within their bounds, 69 presbyteries, 2,198 churches, 1,085 ministers, 67 licentiates, 269 candidates for the Gospel ministry, and 143,743 communicants.

She has revised her Form of Government and Rules of Discipline—not the Confession of Faith—till they are models of their kind, and her pride has always been in her loyal adherence to the purest and most Scriptural standards of any church on earth. True she has had battles to fight, and some of them were very severe, but not one of her fundamental doctrines has ever been attacked so far as I can recollect until lately. The theory of evolution, so mildly and somewhat vaguely presented by Dr. Woodrow, has stirred up a polemical spirit throughout the Church, but happily, for the sake of peace, indisposition prevented the principal parties from appearing at the late General Assembly, and the whole matter has a year to rest.

While there is much that can be favorably written about the doctrinal and governmental state of the Church, there are other things that are not so felicitous. Financially she is weak. True, it is a fault of her training in the balmy times "before de wah," when one could give and never feel it, that has never been corrected. Her life pulse is in her Foreign Mission work. In that she has always done well, but her Home Missions are languishing. Without a sustentation or augmentation scheme strong enough to raise her ministry above want, many of her most devoted men have a meagre support, and have to employ a part of their time at some worldly calling. Clergymen of note occupying important charges are well provided for, but the rank and file out in the country appointments have their faith and courage sorely tried. The cause of this is not so much in